

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PASS-00 PC-05 OC-05 CCO-00 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 FDRE-00 HEW-06 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 DHA-02 SCA-01 SCSE-00 EB-07 IO-11 INRE-00

USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /063 W
----- 060059

O 122300Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 203

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 1137

AID/AIDAC/PHA/FDRC

E.O. 11652:NA

TAGS: SWEL, GT

SUBJ: GUATEMALAN EARTHQUAKE-VOLUNTEER MEDICAL PERSONNEL

DEPT PASS NIACT IMMEDIATE TO SECDEF, JCS, AND USCINCSO; ROUTINE TO
SAN JOSE, SAN SALVADOR, MANAGUA, TEGUCIGALPA, MEXICO, USUN NY,
AND USMISSION GENEVA

1. THE IMMEDIATE MEDICAL EMERGENCY FOLLOWING THE EARTHQUAKE
OF FEBRUARY 4 APPEARS TO HAVE TERMINATED. INFLUX OF BOTH
LIGHTLY AND SERIOUSLY INJURED PATIENTS HAS GREATLY DIMINISHED,
ALTHOUGH PATIENTS FROM REMOTE VILLAGES CONTINUE TO ARRIVE AT
MEDICAL FACILITIES SEEKING TREATMENT.

THE LARGER TOWNS IN THE DISASTER AREAS NOW HAVE ACTIVE MEDICAL
FACILITIES PROVIDED BY US, COSTA RICA, NICARAGUA, VENEZUELA,
SANTO DOMINGO AND OTHER MEDICAL TEAMS, SUPPLEMENTING MINISTRY
OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND IGSS FACILITIES AND SERVICES.

EIGHT SPECIAL FORCES PARAMEDICAL/RADIO TEAMS WILL BEGIN A
SYSTEMATIC SURVEY OF DISASTER AREAS AND WILL COLLECT NEEDED
INFORMATION, INCLUDING HEALTH CONDITION, FOOD SUPPLIES,
STATUS OF WATER SYSTEMS, AND DESTRUCTION OF HOUSING.

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ONE IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE WORK OF THE SPECIAL FORCES TEAMS

IS TO SEEK AND TRANSMIT BY FIELD RADIO INFORMATION ON THE PRESENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES. THIS INFORMATION WILL SUPPLEMENT THAT COLLECTED DAILY FROM MEDICAL FACILITIES IN THE CAPITAL AND SELECTED AREAS OUTSIDE CAPITAL. THIS SYSTEMATIC APPROACH OBVIATES THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL MEDICAL VOLUNTEERS. LIKEWISE, THE PRESENCE OF US ARMY 47TH FIELD HOSPITAL IN CHIMALTENANGO AND OF ADEQUATE HELICOPTER EVACUATION FACILITES FURTHER REDUCES THE NEED FOR MEDICAL VOLUNTEERS. EMBARRASSMENT TO EMBASSY STAFF AND TO VOLUNTEERS WILL BE AVOIDED IF THE FACTS OF SITUATION ARE WIDELY KNOWN. SEVERAL MEDICAL VOLUNTEERS GROUPS HAVE NOW RETURNED, AND INCOMING VOLUNTEERS ARE EXPERIENCING FRSUTRATION BECAUSE THEY ARE UNABLE TO LOCATE SITES WHERE THEIR SERVICES CAN BE USED.

THEREFORE, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT POTENTIAL VOLUNTEERS BE ADVISED THAT THE MEDICAL SITUATION HAS BEEN CONTAINED AND THAT THEY SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT TRAVEL TO GUATEMALA IN ORDER TO VOLUNTEER SERVICES. DONATIONS OF MEDICINES AND SURGICAL EQUIPMENT, PARTICULARLY SPLINTS AND ORTHOPEDIC APPLIANCES SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE SOLICITED; SPECIFIC NEEDS FOR DONATIONS OF GOODS OR SERVICES OF OTHER TYPES WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO FDRC BY THE USEMBASSY
GUATEMALA
MELOY

NOTE BY OC/T: PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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NNN

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